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Investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/72/L.19

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1 and 7 of draft resolution A/72/L.19, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to reappoint the Eminent Person appointed pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/260 to continue to review the potential new information, including that which may be available from Member States, to assess its probative value, to determine the scope that any further inquiry or investigation should take and, if possible, to draw conclusions from the investigations already conducted;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to provide an oral briefing on any progress made to the General Assembly before the end of the main part of its seventy-third session and to report to the General Assembly before the end of its seventy-third session on any further progress made.

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IV. Relationship of the proposed requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

2. The requested activities referred to in the draft resolution relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the biennial programme plans and priorities for the period 2018–2019 (see A/71/6/Rev.1).

3. They also relate to section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, and section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 1), and A/72/6 (Sect. 2), respectively).

V. Activities by which the proposed request would be implemented

4. Pursuant to operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would reappoint the Eminent Person appointed pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/260 to continue to review the potential new information, including that which may be available from Member States, to assess its probative value, to determine the scope that any further inquiry or investigation should take and, if possible, to draw conclusions from the investigations already conducted. The tasks of the Eminent Person are foreseen as follows:

(a) To review the reports of: (i) the Commission of Jurists on the Inquiry into the Death of Dag Hammarskjöld (see A/68/800); (ii) the Independent Panel of Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/246 concerning the investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him (see A/70/132); and (iii) the Eminent Person (see A/71/1042), including the information relied on by the Commission of Jurists, the Independent Panel of Experts and the Eminent Person;

(b) To review and assess new records and information that may be provided by Member States following the adoption of the draft resolution, including as a result of Member States' conduct of a dedicated internal review of their intelligence, security and defence archives;

(c) To follow up with Member States who may hold relevant information, including with officials appointed by Member States to conduct the review of their respective archives;

(d) If necessary and appropriate, to interview witnesses, including expert witnesses;

(e) To produce a report, which would include the following items:

(i) A summary of, and any findings on, new information obtained since the conclusion of the work of the Eminent Person;

(ii) An assessment of the probative value of that new information for the purpose of identifying the cause or causes of the incident and determining its attribution to any individual or entity;

(iii) As the Eminent Person may deem appropriate, new statements from witnesses who were interviewed and new information obtained, to be affixed as appendices;

(iv) A determination of the scope that any further inquiry or investigation should take, or, if the Eminent Person is of the opinion that a further inquiry or investigation may not be beneficial, a presentation of conclusions drawn from the investigations already conducted.

5. It is envisaged that the Eminent Person and his Special Assistant will be engaged as consultants for work not to exceed six work-months for the period 2018–2019. In this regard, the Special Assistant will support the Eminent Person in the performance of his tasks as described in paragraph 4 above. In addition, to assist in the investigation, it is also proposed that a consultant provide specialized expertise, including forensics and document analysis for one work-month. Travel may be undertaken by the Eminent Person and the Special Assistant to New York, Africa and Western Europe for further inquiry, investigation and follow up with Member States, and by the consultant to Africa for forensics and document analysis ($246,100).

6. Pursuant to the request contained in operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, it is envisaged that the request for documentation would constitute an addition to the documentation workload for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of one pre-session document (35,000 words) to be issued in all six languages in 2019. This would entail additional resource requirements for documentation services in 2019 ($111,200).

IV. Financial implications of the proposals

7. In order to implement the requests contained in paragraphs 1 and 7 of the draft resolution, additional one-time requirements in the amount of $357,300 would arise under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, and under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019. The details of the additional resource requirements are provided in the table below.

(United States dollars)

	Resource requirements 2018–2019
Section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	
Consultants	246 100
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	
Pre-session documentation	111 200
Total	**357 300**

V. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2018–2019

8. No provisions have been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the implementation of the activities requested under operative paragraphs 1 and 7 of the draft resolution. It is not possible at present to identify activities within the sections concerned of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. It is therefore necessary that one-time resource requirements in the amount of $357,300 be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019.

VI. Contingency fund

9. Under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget.

VII. Conclusion and action requested of the General Assembly

10. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/72/L.19, additional resource requirements in the amount of $357,300, comprising $246,100 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, and $111,200 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, would arise under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019. The amount of $357,300 would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019 to be approved by the Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.**